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S. F. HANCOCK, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 13, 1866.

HOW DO WE LIVE AND DIE IN WASHINGTON?

The great advantage which every government or State would derive from a carefully executed system of registration within its borders are too obvious for argument. The relative mortality and fecundity of population, the longevity of the people, the causes of death and relative prevalence of different diseases, the proportions of the sexes, the comparative healthfulness of city and country and of different parts of country, the nativities of the people, the frequency of marriage at different seasons and the comparison of mortality with other States and nations—all these are facts which are of public interest to the whole body of society. When to these considerations are added the local and individual benefits of having the family record of each inhabitant preserved in an authenticated form, it seems surprising that a practical people, so advanced in civilization as ourselves, should have adopted no uniform and permanent system of registration throughout the country.

The thorough registration of the people is of recent origin, even in Great Britain. In the United States Massachusetts took the lead in establishing registration. In 1841, (only two years after the appearance of the first annual report of the Registrar General of births, marriages, and deaths, in England,) Massachusetts passed a "law concerning the registration of births, marriages, and deaths." It requires the clerk of each town and city in the State to receive, record, and index the following facts:

In the record of births, the date and place of the birth, the name of the child, (if it have any,) the sex and color, the name, residence, and places of birth of the parents, the occupation of the father, and the date of the record are given.

In the record of marriages, there is to be given the date and place of the marriage, the name, residence, and official station of the person by whom married, the names and nativity of the parties, the age, color, and residence of each, the condition of each, (whether single or widowed,) the occupation, the names of the parents, and the date of the record. As marriage certificates or licenses are procured only from the Town Clerk or Registrar, this duty is easy.

In the record of deaths, the date of the death, the name and age of the deceased, the sex, color, condition, (whether single, widowed, or married,) residence, occupation, place of death, nativity, the names and nativity of the parents, the disease or cause of death, the place of burial, and the date of the record.

Parents are required to give notice to the Town Clerk of the births and deaths of their children, every household to give like notice of every birth or death happening in his house; and whoever neglects to give such notice within six months after a birth or death, forfeits a sum not exceeding five dollars.

All physicians are required to furnish, for registration, certificates of the cause of death of persons attended by them, under penalty of \$10 fine. Sextons, undertakers, and superintendents of burial grounds or burials are required to return the facts set forth above in the record of deaths, and receive a fee of ten cents therefor, in each case. The record of the town clerk relative to any birth, marriage, or death, is *prima facie* evidence, in legal proceedings, of the facts recorded; and the clerks are required to transmit, by the 1st of February of each year, a copy of the register for the year ending the preceding December, to the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth, who must furnish all the blank forms required for registration. For these services the town clerk receives a fee of twenty-five cents each entry. The returns are required to be tabulated in the office of the Secretary of State for publication, while the original returns are bound in volumes and accurately indexed for reference. The first entries are also in bound books, and contain the history of the vital statistics and family changes of each town, preserved for permanent reference in the office of the clerk of each township.

Now some may consider it a matter of no importance to the public how people live or die in Washington; but the inhabitants of the District of Columbia have surely some interest in these vital statistics, and we trust that Congress will, in any of the plans of "reconstruction" of the District, include a proper registration law so that we can find out at what rate we are living and dying.

PERSONAL.

JOHN RAY, Chief of the Cherokee nation, was yesterday reported overland by his attendant physicians.

THOMAS McELRATH, formerly the publisher of the New York Tribune, is stopping at the Elks.

Nitro-Glycerine.

Col. TAL. P. SHERMAN, of artillery-making celebrity, will institute some very extraordinary experiments on Saturday afternoon next, between four and six o'clock, p. m., east of Lincoln Hospital, on the margin of the Eastern Branch, illustrating the comparative force of nitro-glycerine and gunpowder; and he will also discharge a thunder-bolt by his newly-discovered electricity.

Theatrical.

The popular comedy of "London Assurance" was last night enacted at Grover's to a large audience, who were apparently well pleased with the performance. To-night we have Bulwer's comedy of Money, in which Mr. Robinson appears as Alfred Evelyn, and Miss Rose Eyring as Clara Douglas.

THE LEMAS CONVENTION.—We learn from the Colorado Register that it is expected that twenty-five or thirty thousand Indians will be in attendance at the Indian Convention being held this month at Fort Laramie. We trust that such will be the case, and that the Government thus having an opportunity to confer with so many red skins, will not fail to impress upon them the fact that it intends to treat them kindly and justly, and at the same time to hold them to a strict accountability for any atrocities committed. The Register reports that the overland stages are again being motored by the wandering tribes.

Pen, Pencil, and Scissors.
"A LITTLE LEARNING is a dangerous thing" to an actor. He should be "dead lettered." The Treasurer of Dakota county, Minnesota, has lost his dog.
A BRICK WORKER in Buffalo was blown to pieces by a gas explosion last week.
The general who finished the Fenian movement in Canada was General Cullage.
The price of beef is again on the decline in New York.
A CHILD was pecked to death by a game cock in London lately.
An order has been received in England for 20,000 red shirts for Garibaldi's army.
A MAN in New York has raised one hundred thousand young trout, which he has sold at \$50 per thousand, for stocking streams and ponds.
THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE says that all Congress can do is to make up an issue for the next election.
An ice machine in Louisiana makes 3,000 pounds daily, yielding a gross income of \$1,500, and the expenses are \$25 per day.
THE KEANS are playing at the Princess Theatre, in London, after an absence of three years and a voyage round the world.
THE Northampton, Mass., Agricultural Society having offered prizes for the destruction of caterpillars, L. C. Ferry received the first award of \$5 for destroying 504. The number destroyed by the contestants was 2,773.
MR. GEORGE PRABODY continues at Georgetown, Mass., at the house of his sister, Mrs. Russell, where he has been for a few days confined by indisposition. He is expected soon to undertake his contemplated visit to Washington and Baltimore.
JOHN DALL started in a wagon to be married to Hattie Malcomb, living near Thirteenth St., but received a fatal shot from a rifle on the road. A rival for the young lady's hand is suspected of having committed the bloody deed.
THE proprietor of the farm opposite Petersburg, Va., upon which the celebrated Bermuda mine was sprung, on the 30th of July, 1864, has erected a refreshment saloon near the spot, and permits visitors to view the crater only upon the payment of a certain sum per head.

CAPT. MELANCTHON SMITH, United States Army, Brig. Gen. J. W. Alexander, United States Army, and Chief Engineer W. W. King, United States Army, have been appointed a board to examine a proposed location for a fresh water basin for iron-ore at Portland, Maine, under a recent resolution of Congress.

SCIENTIFIC investigations show that in ascending mountains the heart-beat increases on an average one pulse per minute for every hundred yards. Quibble ascended the White Mountains with a lady last summer, and he states that he experienced a still greater acceleration of pulsations.

"PELLET FENCIBLES," a volume lately published by Carlton, (for sale here by Philip & Solomon), says: "Throughout medieval Europe the Jew was the curing block of man; for you know everybody wants somebody to swear at; every nation wants somebody to curse; every church wants somebody to damn."

THE rebel privateer and blockade-runner Chickamauga, which was sunk in the Cape Fear river during the operations against Fort Fisher, N. C., and subsequently raised by the Messrs. O. E. Malby & Co., was purchased at auction last at the Gosport navy-yard, by the same parties, for the sum of \$15,000.

EDWARD LONG, the negro rioter, charged with atrociously murdering Mr. Whittier, during the negro celebration of the passage of the Civil Rights bill, in Norfolk, some time since, was found guilty in the Circuit Court of Norfolk, and sentenced to eighteen years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

In reply to an inquiry of District Attorney Dart, at Portland, Me., as to whether any of the subordinate officers and men of the Fenian prisoners should be indicted, the Attorney General telegraphed instructions to indict the leaders only, and to prosecute them for breach of the United States neutrality laws with such diligence as would be consistent with the dignity of the United States.

A CORRESPONDENT at Raleigh, N. C., writes that the total cost of the late war, who is assigned before a military court in that city on the charge of cruelty to Union prisoners, has already cost the Government over \$100,000, and so far as the case has yet gone very little profit has been established against the prisoner.

By the Africa's mail we receive the news of the death of Prince Paul Anthony Esterhazy, at Buda-Pest. In some respects he was one of the most widely-known of the nobility of Europe. His vast territorial possessions, his immense personal wealth, and extravagant style of expenditure, have long been the subject of gossip all over the world.

BENJAMIN MIFFLIN, Esq., formerly a printer and newspaper publisher of Philadelphia, died on Sunday evening. For many years he was the head of the firm of Mifflin & Perry, publishers of the Philadelphia City and Country Gazette, and was the organ, and for a long period the influential champion, of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania.

We have the best of reasons for asserting that the President does not intend to interfere, either directly or indirectly, in the case of Jeff Davis, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts being made by his counsel in his behalf for executive interposition. The President considers the case entirely a judicial question, and will in no event interfere with the course of justice in the case of Davis.

THE Senate, in executive session, has confirmed the following nominations: Walter B. Reade, to be Collector of Customs at Chicago, Illinois, and Elijah H. Willis, Collector of Customs at Plymouth, N. C.; James W. Stone, to be Agent for the Sioux Indians of the Minnesota, in the Territory of Dakota; Paul Frank of New York, to be Member of the Council Court at Kanagawa, Japan; Chas. H. Thompson, Postmaster at Corning, N. Y.

The oldest church now existing in this country is situated near Smithfield, in Wight county, Va. It was built in the reign of Charles I., between the years 1630 and 1635. The brick and lime and timber were imported from England. The structure is of brick, erected in the most substantial manner. The mortar has become so hardened that it will strike fire in collision with steel.

Not so Guilty as Others.
JOHN FORNEY argues through the Mobile Register that JEFF. DAVIS should be liberated, because he was not a leader in the secession movement, and therefore not as guilty as some others who have already been set at liberty. As a proof of this he says that DAVIS restrained the insurgents from attacking Fort Pickens at a time when its capture could have been certain. We quote: "The confederates under General Davis were eager for permission to attack, but telegram after telegram was sent by DAVIS, PITTMAN, and MALLOY, to the Governor of Alabama and Florida, urging that Fort Pickens should not be attacked, and that nothing should be done that could possibly bring on hostilities. These dispatches, coming from gentlemen of so much influence, and of such opportunities for knowing the state of affairs in the Federal capital, could not be disregarded by the Governor of the two States, or by the commanding officer of the troops." There are a great many people who believe that these "leaders" of the rebellion, as well as DAVIS, should receive some kind of punishment.

THE DEPARTMENTS.

Post Office Department.
POSTAGE TO THE DUTCH WEST INDIES BY FREIGHT MAIL.—We are requested to state that, from the 1st of July next, letters post paid to the United States and addressed to the Dutch West Indies, (Curaçao, St. Eustatius, and St. Martin,) will be transmitted to a post office in France, in the French mail, at a postage of 15 cents for each single rate of one quarter ounce or under; prepayment being optional with the sender.
During the last month there have been 137 new post offices established; there were 50 offices discontinued; the names of 22 offices were changed; and post offices renamed as follows: Arkansas 9, Louisiana 7, West Virginia 4, North Carolina 42, Virginia 28, Georgia 4, Tennessee 18, Texas 87, Florida 14, Mississippi 4, South Carolina 5, and Alabama 4.
Of the established or reopened offices there were very few in which postmasters or postmistresses appointed "could not take the oath." The people generally are beginning to understand that the oath is indispensable; that every postmaster's bond must be approved by the Department before a commission is sent; and that no post office can be put in operation until the postmaster has taken that commission.
The great Government has been yesterday in full operation, and many orders were issued with a view to perfect the mail transportation throughout our entire land on or before the first day of July next.
Fifty new Presidential appointments were also issued during the last month.
We note the following order, made last evening, as being interesting to our readers of this locality: Maryland, postmaster of Brighton in Maryland, is authorized to receive his mails from Elliott's Mills, in New York.
Route No. 2208, Baltimore to Uniontown, J. P. Pack, Postmaster, is authorized to receive his mails from Elliott's Mills, in New York.
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Pennsylvania.—At Spring Hill, Lancaster county, vice E. R. Stuffer, deceased.
Virginia.—At Patrick Springs, Patrick county, Va.—James R. Taylor, Postmaster.
Central Post, Caroline county, Va.—Miss Catherine Taylor, Postmaster.
Andrew, Spottsylvania county.—J. R. D. Clifton, Postmaster.
West Virginia.—Establish an office at West Fork, W. Va., over the office of the postmaster, between Baltimore and Glenview.
Appointments.—Lorenzo Hager, postmaster, Baltimore, Md., vice William Thompson, deceased.
Daniel Wilson, postmaster, Grafton, Taylor county, vice J. J. Warren, resigned.
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The new United States Mint at Carson City, Nevada.
Through the courtesy of the supervising architect of the Treasury Department we have been able to obtain a description of the designs for the new United States mint about to be constructed at Carson City, Nevada. The edifice will be built in the Italian style of architecture; will be two stories high, its general dimensions sixty feet by thirty feet, with a central tower, and will be about forty feet from the ground to the cornice. The central building will be fifty feet in length, with a pedimented front, surmounted by an observatory. The windows of the structure are to be narrow and circular-headed; the walls cyclopean, with stone hewn, buttressed, angle quoins, window dressings, &c. The basement will be occupied by furnaces, for the annealing, coloring, melting and weighing coins, vaults and offices, while the second story will embrace the refining, assay and cabinet room, offices, vaults, &c., all conveniently and appropriately arranged with the necessary passages and communications.

Secrecy of Food in South Carolina.
An acting assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, &c., in South Carolina, has recently made a thorough tour of inspection, and has reported the conclusions derived therefrom to the assistant commissioner. He thinks that the supply of food is inadequate to the demand, but that where subsistence is not wanting labor will be as productive this season as at other seasons, when capital owned labor. In the district of Charleston the supply of provisions is nearly exhausted, and great suffering will come upon all classes unless speedily relieved by the Government. It is estimated that 9,000 bushels of corn and 100,000 pounds of bacon, provisions for three months, in addition to that now in the hands of the planters, will be required to supply the demand, and the harvesting of the crops. These supplies the planters have neither the cash nor the credit to purchase, and, unless relief comes from the Government, many of the plantations will be abandoned by the freedmen, who will go in search of employment where they can get sufficient food.

Improvement of the Public Grounds.
The labor of improving and beautifying the grounds between the White House and the Treasury building is rapidly approaching completion. A large force of laborers are daily employed in the work, and have already constructed a beautiful terrace midway between the Executive Mansion and the Treasury building, and are now engaged in landscaping the six-acre and a half street extension. The new fountain commenced playing this morning, and is one of the most attractive features of the improvements mentioned. It consists of six revolving spiral jets of water round a central jet, the whole surmounting a parabolic arch. The design is a very pretty one, and was yesterday admired by thousands passing over the richly decorated terrace leading from the Treasury to the terrace, which will be completed by a paved walk and handsome stone steps leading to the White House.

Change of Hours in the Departments.
The Secretary of the Treasury has under consideration the propriety of changing the hours of closing his Department at 3 p. m., instead of 4, as at present. No Cabinet officer is more assiduous in the discharge of his duties than the Secretary of the Treasury, who is promptly at his post at 9 o'clock, a. m., remaining usually until 5 or 6 p. m. Notwithstanding this fact, he will probably adopt the six-hour system on the 1st proximo until after the close of the "heated term." It is understood that a similar change in hours will be made by the heads of several other Departments of the Government.

THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MARINERS, relative to the destruction of the light-house at Bay Point, Port Royal, South Carolina, was yesterday issued by the Light House Board:
Information has been received at this office that the light-house at Bay Point, Port Royal harbor, was entirely destroyed by a tornado which visited that vicinity on the 29th ult.
Due notice will be given of the re-establishment of this light.
By order: W. B. SHERBURG, Chairman.

Examining Surgeons Appointed.
The following examining surgeons were yesterday appointed by the Commissioner of the Penitentiary Bureau: Dr. Joseph B. Dunn, of Maryland; Dr. J. Baker, of Michigan; and Henry H. Langdon, of Vermont.

INTERNAL REVENUE.—The receipts yesterday from this source amounted to \$247,072.18.

JUDICIAL UNDERWOOD AS A NEGRO SELLER.—The Worcester Underwood copies from the records of a fugitive county a part of an answer to a bill in chancery, which answers was filed in 1863 by Underwood, and in which the Judge "intended that in making distribution of the personal estate referred to in said bill, the share of the slaves which may be allotted to the said Flora V. Moore shall be subjected to the payment of the said Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson's share of said debt."

RECEIPTS.—Mr. Anthony, from the Committee on Printing, presented the petition of the employees of the President's house and grounds, under the administration of Mr. Lincoln, asking for extra compensation on account of extra duties performed. The bill relative to the distribution of money by the officers of the Freedmen's Bureau.

On motion of Mr. Chandler, the bill making appropriations for the repair, preservation and completion of certain public works heretofore commenced under authority of law, and for other purposes, was taken up and passed.

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CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS.

XXIXTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1866.
SENATE.
Mr. Anthony moved to print four hundred extra copies of the report of the Commissioner of Patents, which was referred to the Committee on Printing.
Mr. Wilson, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the House bill to provide for the settlement of accounts of certain public officers, which was passed.
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Treasury Department, and for additional compensation to officers and clerks in the same department, \$100,000. Provided, that the temporary clerks herein provided for may be classified according to the character of their services, and that the Secretary of the Treasury may award such additional compensation as he may deem proper, and may be required by the public service. And as much of the "not making appropriations for the legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the Government," approved, March 3, 1865, as authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury "to award any such additional compensation after July 1, 1865," is hereby repealed; provided further, that out of the appropriation of \$500,000 made by said act for compensation to temporary clerks in the Treasury Department, and for additional compensation to clerks in the same department, there shall be paid to each person therein, appointed by the Secretary as clerk or counter, who shall have served in such capacity for one year previous to the passage of this act, and whose pay amounts to less than one thousand dollars per annum, the sum of one hundred dollars.

Mr. Dox, by unanimous consent, introduced a resolution requesting the President to communicate to the Senate any information in his possession relative to the sailing of Austrian troops for Mexico. Mr. Dox asked the present consideration of the resolution.

Mr. Fessenden objected, and it went over. The consideration of the bill under discussion was then resumed, but was laid over before being read through.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Governmental Appropriation bill, made a report, which was agreed to.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
The Senate bill to incorporate the District of Columbia, and to amend the act in relation to the same, was read, and was discussed at some length by Mr. Francis Thomas, of Maryland, and Mr. Davis, of New York, in opposition; Mr. Francis Thomas, of Maryland, moved its indefinite postponement; which was lost—62 to 62.

The bill was then recommitted to the Committee for the District.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, from the Committee on Military Affairs, Senate bill resolution respecting bounties to colored soldiers, and bounties, pensions, and allowances to their heirs, with amendment.

By Mr. Hart, of New York, from the Committee for the District of Columbia: For legalizing marriages of colored people in the District of Columbia and legitimizing their children.

By Mr. Coffey, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions: Granting pension to John Ryan, widow of a sergeant of the 17th West Virginia Infantry.

By Mr. Briggs, of Michigan, from Committee on Public Lands: Senate bill to extend the time for the location of the right of way of the land granted by Congress to aid in the construction of a railroad from Amboy, by Hillsdale and Lansing, Michigan, on or near Traverse bay, in the State of Michigan, with a substitute.

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Release of Jefferson Davis—Vagary.
The Tribune of yesterday says: "It is reported from Washington that a number of well-known gentlemen stand ready to give bail for Jefferson Davis in any required amount, but that the Government is disposed to release him, if at all, upon parole."
Mr. Greeley is one of the "well-known gentlemen" overdoing with sympathy for Jefferson Davis, and with living and cheating up Judge Tinsman to offer "bail in any required amount." Jefferson Davis was the head and front of a rebellion in the progress of which a quarter of a million of our sons fell, and for which the nation is carrying a debt of over three thousand millions of dollars. While Jefferson Davis was in his glory at Vicksburg, Union prisoners were being kept in rebel prisons of "pestilence and famine" by thousands. Under the surplus of Jefferson Davis, and with the money of the confederate government, agents were employed to introduce contagious diseases into our cities. Under the same surplus, and with the same money, confederate agents in Canada hatched conspiracies and raids to rob our banks, murder our citizens, burn our cities and atrocious crimes were approved by Jefferson Davis. He has never even denied his responsibility or complicity in them. When any of the guilty agents were arrested they produced a commission from Jefferson Davis.

When this traitor-in-chief was arrested, outraged humanity demanded his trial and punishment. But the Tribune objects: Mr. Greeley was opposed to the "death penalty." Mr. Greeley is a philanthropist! Mr. Greeley's sympathy for the man who struck a blow at the life of the Republic, who deluged our country in blood, who enslaved white, African and Asiatic millions, who cravenly, white-feathered spirit, from influential sources procured delay, and delay in a denial of justice. JEFFERSON DAVIS should have been promptly tried, convicted and sentenced, after which, if the President had commuted the punishment on condition of his leaving the country forever, we should have been spared the sight of the traitor who is living upon the fat of the land in Western Missouri. Mr. Greeley rushes to Washington to offer bail, so that not even punishment of the mildest character should be inflicted upon a man whose head in any other country would have come off for any one of his many treasons.

It is a curious, if not an instructive fact, in the history of the rebellion, that while Chief Justice CHASE refused to try and Mr. Greeley objects to the punishment of the leading representative traitor, he refused to restore the followers of rebel leaders who desire to return to their allegiance to their rights and privileges; and both parties, after peace has been proclaimed, in keeping the Union divided!—N. Y. Times.

SPECIAL NOTICES.
LAW COMMENCEMENT.—The annual commencement of the Law Department of Columbia College will be held this (WEDNESDAY) EVENING, at Metropolitan Hall, at 7½ o'clock. The exercises will consist of an oration by Hon. HORACE MAYNARD, of Tennessee, the presenting of diplomas, and an address to the graduates by Hon. Wm. W. Brewster.

National Military Academy.—The Management of the National Military Academy, approved March 2, 1866, has proposed for sites for academies by donation or purchase. The premises must be situated in one of the local States, contain at least ten acres, and be a healthy location and easy of access by railroad or otherwise. It is the purpose of the managers to erect without delay, extensive and permanent buildings for said academies, and its establishment will be largely advantageous to any section or railroad in the vicinity of its location.

Plans, specifications, and estimates for asylum buildings, including detached outbuildings, are also asked for the purpose of erecting a National Asylum for the insane, to be situated in one of the States, and to be a healthy location and easy of access by railroad or otherwise. It is the purpose of the managers to erect without delay, extensive and permanent buildings for said academies, and its establishment will be largely advantageous to any section or railroad in the vicinity of its location.

Proposals, plans, specifications, and estimates—the first named to be in writing, containing plot and description of grounds and terms and conditions of transfer—must be sent to Major General B.